

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 SP-02 NSCE-00 PM-03
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FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2064
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HAVANA 1476

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, CH, UR
SUBJECT: CUBANS ATTACK DR. BRZEZINSKI AND CHINESE

REF: (A) HAVANA 1458, (B) HAVANA 1465

1. SUMMARY: CUBAN MEDIA, MAY 31, LAUNCH VICIOUS PERSONAL ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI AND HIS RECENT TRIP TO CHINA. ATTACK, WHICH IS PROGRAMMED TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, IS PROBABLY INTENDED TO RESPOND TO ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS OF LAST FEW WEEKS ON CUBA. BY AVOIDING DIRECT PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, CUBANS SEEK: A) TO LEAVE ROOM FOR PRESIDENT TO STAND-DOWN FROM CONFRONTATION WITH CUBA, AND B) TO PLAY ON PERCEIVED HAWK-DOVE DIFFERENCES WITHIN ADMINISTRATION AND IN CONGRESS. CUBANS HAVE PROBABLY FOCUSED ATTACK ON CHINA IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE PROTECTION THEY ENJOY FROM SOVIET UNION AND TO EMPHASIZE DEFIANCE OF WEST. END SUMMARY.

2. GRANMA, MAY 31, PUBLISHES PART ONE OF EXTREMELY LENGTHY, HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE GREAT TREASON
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OF THE CHINESE LEADERS AND THE DARK ROLE OF ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI." EDITORIAL VILELY CRITICIZES DR. BRZEZINSKI, DESCRIBING HIM AS "SONE OF A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY POLISH EXILE WHO PROFESSES A VISCERAL HATE, TYPICAL OF RENEGADES AND STATELESS PERSONS, TOWARD THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." CUBANS FURTHER LABEL DR. BRZEZINSKI AS "A CHULISH, OPPORTUNISTIC INDIVIDUAL, CAPABLE OF ANY LOW ACTION TO REACH FOR HIGHER POSITIONS."

THEY DESCRIBE "DR. BRZEZINSKI'S POLICY" AS "CYNICAL, OPPORTUNISTIC, AND ADVENTUROUS" AND "ABSOLUTELY IRRESPONSIBLE AND INSAN." (FYI NSC ADVISOR SAMUAL HUNTINGTON IS ALSO CONDEMNED AS A "WAR CRIMINAL." END FYI)

3. FOCUS OF ATTACK IS ENTIRELY ON DR. BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO CHINA, WITH VIRTUALLY NO REFERENCE MADE TO RECENT US CHARGES OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA. PRESIDENT CARTER IS MENTIONED ONLY ONCE - AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION - WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE EXPLOITATIVE EFFORTS OF "MULTINATIONAL MONOPOLIES."

4. EDITORIAL LAMBASTS CELEBRATED "DIRTY AND HUMILIATING JOKE" AT EXPENSE OF SOVIETS ON GREAT WALL BY "ADVENTUROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE 'YANKEE-IZED' CLOWN" (DR. BRZEZINSKI). EDITORIAL STATES THAT JOKE SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY - CHINA IS SEEKING TO MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES. IT IS SUSPECTED, EDITORIAL SAYS, THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI DISCUSSED "PROBABLE SUPPLY OF US ARMS TO CHINA" DURING HIS VISIT. EDITORIAL ADDS THAT, "A GROWING DANGER OF WORLD WAR EXISTS AND THIS COLLUSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA REPRESENTS A SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL DETENTE."

5. CHINESE LEADERSHIP IS CHARACTERIZED AS "DEMENTED" AND SEEKING TO SPUR WAR BETWEEN US AND SOVIET UNION. GRANMA
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STATES THAT CHINESE LEADERSHIP "SEEMS NOW TO BE THINKING IN OPEN TERMS OF WAR AGAINST SOVIET UNION IN ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES". US, PURPORTEDLY OPERATING UNDER DR. BRZEZINSKI'S PRESCRIPTIONS, IS SAID TO BE PLANNING TO USE CHINA AS "ARM OF PRESSURE" AGAINST SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, "NOT EXCLUDING PROMOTING CONFLICTS UP TO WAR ITSELF BETWEEN CHINA AND THE USSR WITH THE AIM OF LIQUIDATING SOCIALISM AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS."

6. GRANMA CONCLUDES THAT THE PROGRESSIVE CAMP WILL NOT LET ITSELF BE INTIMIDATED BY THIS EXTRAORDINARY BLACKMAIL." THE SOVIET UNION, GRANMA SAYS, "HAS SUFFICIENT FORCES TO DEFEND ITSELF AND THE SOVIETS ARE NOT NERVOUS."

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7. BEGIN COMMENT: USINT WAS WARNED IN ADVANCE OF IMPENDING ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI BY LIONEL MARTIN - LONGTIME AMERICAN RESIDENT JOURNALIST HERE WHO IS SYMPATHETIC WITH CASTRO REGIME. ATTACK WAS CHARACTERIZED BY MARTIN AS RESPONSE TO US STATEMENTS ON SHABA - AN ASSESSMENT WITH WHICH WE AGREE.

8. USE OF CHINA MOTIF NOT ONLY REAFFIRMS CUBAN LOYALTY TO MOSCOW AT A TIME WHEN CASTRO MAY FEEL THREATENED BY RENASCENCE OF WESTERN ACTIVISM IN AFRICA, BUT ALSO SHARPENS CUBAN DEFIANCE OF US BY IMPLICITLY REAFFIRMING CUBA'S PROTECTIMN UNDER SOVIET NUCLEAR UMBRELLA.

9. ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI, RATHER THAN ON PRESIDENT, IS PROBABLY CALCULATED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY, SHOULD PRESIDENT CARTER CHOOSE, TO BACKTRACK FROM ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT STRONG STANDS ON CUBA. CUBANS HERE HAVE QUESTIONED US REPEATEDLY ON APPARENT DIFFERENCES IN STATEMENTS ON CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG, SECRETARY VANCE, AND DR. BRZEZINSKI. WITH CLEAR SENSE OF CONGRESSIONAL
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DIFFERENCES ON NEED FOR LOWERING OF CONSTRAINTS ON EXECUTIVE ACTIONS IN AFRICA, CUBANS ARE SEEKING TO ISOLATE WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE HARDER LINE ELEMENTS IN US HIERARCHY - USING SPECTER OF US-SOVIET CONFRONTATION AS TOOL. AIM IS TO USE PERCEIVED US INTEREST IN STABILIZED WORLD SITUATION (SALT, ETC.) AS EFFORT TO DISUADE ADMINISTRATION FROM TAKING OFFENSIVE POSTURE TOWRAD CUBA.

10. WE NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ IN UN SPEECH, MAY 30, STATED THAT, DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S "VACILLATIONS ... AND DANGEROUS DEPARTURES" TOWARD COLD WAR LANGUAGE AND "FALSIFICATION" OF CUBAN POLICY, HAVANA STILL RECALLS EXPRESSED COMMITMENT OF PRESIDENT TO DETENTE, "PARTICULARLY WITH SOVIET UNION." THUS, CUBANS SEEK TO COUNTER US CRITICISM OF CUBA, BUT TO PROVIDE BREATHING SPACE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO RECONSIDER HIS POSTURE ON CUBA. (FYI ABSENCE OF FIDEL CASTRO FROM PUBLIC VIEW - SEE REF B, AND HIS FAILURE TO RESPOND TO IMPLICIT ADMINISTRATION CHARGES THAT HE IS A LIAR ARE RELEVANT IN THIS REGARD, END FYI)

11. DECISION ON NATURE OF APPROPRIATE USG RESPONSE AT THIS TIME TO BRZEZINSKI/CHINA ATTACK SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MIXTURE OF VICIOUS INNUENDO AND RESTRAINT WHICH CHARACTERIZES PIECE. WE BELIEVE THAT FOLLOWING POINTS CAN USEFULLY BE MADE (PREFERABLY BY DEPARTMENT TO COUNTER ANY CUBAN NOTION OF DISCREPANT VIEWS): A) CHARACTER AND NATURE OF PERSONAL ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, B) IDEAS PRESENTED IN US CHINA POLICY ARE GROSS DISTORTION, C) UNIVERSALLY SHARED ADMINISTRATION VIEW, AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT, IS THAT CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA SHOULD BE REDUCED AND THAT IT IS THIS PRESENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT DR. BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO CHINA, THAT IS COMPLICATING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, AND D) PRESIDENT CASTRO IS IN POSITION TO MAKE STATESMAN-LIKE GESTURE CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY BY MOVING TO ALLOW DETENTE TO EXIST IN ALL REGIONS, INCLUDING AFRICA. END COMMENT.
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